

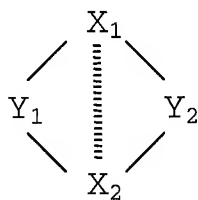
Attorney Docket No.: **MGU-0025**
Inventors: **Damha et al.**
Serial No.: **10/748,475**
Filing Date: **December 30, 2003**
Page 2

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-19 (canceled).

Claim 20 (new): A composition for inhibiting the RNase H activity of a retroid virus reverse transcriptase comprising an inhibitory agent of Formula I:



Formula I

wherein,

X₁ and X₂ are antiparallel complementary oligonucleotide strands that associate to form a duplex;

X₁ is 2 to 24 nucleotides in length;

X₂ is 2 to 24 nucleotides in length;

Y₁ is 2 to 8 nucleotides in length;

Y₂ is 2 to 8 nucleotides in length;

at least one of Y₁ or Y₂ is 4 to 8 nucleotides in length;

Y₁ and Y₂ each independently contain a ribonucleic acid; 2',5'-linked ribonucleic acid; or combination thereof wherein a Y₁ or Y₂ of at least 4 nucleotides comprises the sequence 5'-UUYG-3'/2' (SEQ ID NO:1);

wherein the inhibitory agent comprises the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2; and

Attorney Docket No.: **MGU-0025**
Inventors: **Damha et al.**
Serial No.: **10/748,475**
Filing Date: **December 30, 2003**
Page 3

wherein the inhibitory agent binds to the RNase H domain of
retroid virus reverse transcriptase thereby inhibiting the RNase
H activity thereof.